FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 OCTOBER 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation — The Iraqi Navy sank three vessels and set another on fire in an attack on a hostile maritime convoy heading for Bandar-e Khomeyni, the Iraqi Military Command announced in a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. The communique also reported further Iraqi air raids on Iranian positions in the central sector. Meanwhile, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i claimed in a speech cited by Tehran radio that Iran has achieved "complete success" in its Meymak offensive, which was a surprise "for those who expected that Iran was preparing herself for launching an attack in another region."

New Iranian General Staff Chief — In a decree broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni appointed Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi chief of the Iranian Armed Forces' General Staff. The decree expressed appreciation for the efforts of Sohrabi's predecessor, Brigadier General Qasim 'Ali Zahirnezhad, who was recently appointed Khomeyni's representative on the Supreme Defense Council. Sohrabi has commanded an armored division and was formerly the military commander of Fars region, IRNA noted.

POW's — Iran released 72 disabled Iraqi POW's who will be returned to Iraq via Turkey, Tehran radio reported. Meanwhile, in a statement cited by INA, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman accused the Iranian authorities of killing or wounding Iraqi POW's in Gorgan Camp on 10 October. The presence of Red Cross officials in the camp did not deter the Iranians from firing at unarmed POW's, a "dastardly crime" which follows previous "massacres" of Iraqi POW's the spokesman asserted. The Iraqi foreign minister has protested to the United Nations and other organizations over the incident, INA added.

Lebanon

UK Role — Great Britain will "consider" sending troops to Lebanon "if that were to come up in the UNIFIL context" and it will continue to encourage people to recognize the useful role that an enlarged UNIFIL could play, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television. Sir Geoffrey will begin a visit to Israel on 28 October, the television noted.

Syrian Vice President's Tour

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus after holding talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Libya and President Chadli Bendjedid in Algeria, Damascus radio reported. SANA said that Khaddam and Al-Qadhdhafi were in agreement on all topics discussed, and the radio subsequently cited Khaddam's statement that the Syrian and Algerian viewpoints were in agreement. Khaddam noted that his visit to Algeria came within the framework of the "special relations" between the two countries and their two presidents.

Iraqi Kurds

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received an Iraqi opposition delegation including Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani for talks on the situation in Iraq, Damascus radio reported. Earlier, Libya's Col Al-Qadhdhafi sent a message of support to Barzani, condemning hostilities against "unarmed" Kurds in northern Iraq, according to JANA.

Soviet Mideast Policy

The Soviet Union does not rule out the possibility that a Saudi official will visit Moscow shortly, and the clear principles of Soviet foreign policy toward the Arabs allow for "developing and expanding" relations with Saudi Arabia, Karen Brutents stated in a Beirut *AL-SAFIR* Interview. The Soviet official, who is deputy head of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, added that his country is aware that "Saudi officials raise issues characterized by a friendly and positive attitude toward the Soviet Union." However, he denied Western reports "about Soviet policy being readjusted toward the so-called moderate Arab countries," stressing that Syrian President al-Asad's recent visit to the USSR was "successful" from the Soviet point of view. Even with regard to the Palestinian issue, "where there could be differences of views," the USSR and Syria reached a "very important conclusion". Divisions in the PLO, actions that could undermine the "Palestinian factor," and anything that affects the PLO's status as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people were "unacceptable" to both sides. Brutents said the differences within the PLO must be overcome because they are wasting all its past gains and they may raise "a question mark over the reputation and weight of the Palestinians."

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had talks with Jordan's King Husayn in which he reviewed the PNC convocation situation and his recent talks with Arab leaders, Amman radio reported.

In a related development, "reliable Palestinian sources" cited by Dubayy's *AL-BAYAN* announced that the PFLP-DFLP joint political and military command has been dissolved due to their differences over convening the PNC. PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad exerted "intensive efforts" to reconcile the two fronts during their leaders' recent visit to Aden, according to *AL-BAYAN*.

UAE

A UAE diplomat was shot and seriously wounded in Rome, AFP announced on 26 October. Police detained a Jordanian national in connection with the incident.

DRA

Abouchar Release — The Afghan Government's willingness to release French journalist Jacques Abouchar was announced in Moscow by alternate member of the CPSU Politburo Boris Ponomarev to Claude Estier, chairman of the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission, Paris radio reported. In a reply message to a French plea for clemency, President Babrak Karmal announced that Abouchar should be "pardoned," Kabul radio disclosed.

Pakistani, DRA Protests — Pakistan lodged a "strong protest" over firing from the Afghan side of the border which killed one civilian, and over an airspace violation and bombing by three Afghan jets on 21 October, Karachi radio disclosed. The DRA, on the other hand, "vigorously condemned" "provocative and hostile actions" by Pakistani border units since 19 October which have killed and wounded several civilians and military personnel, Kabul radio reported.

Pakistan

Three "suspected" Afghan "secret police agents" were arrested after the bomb explosion in a Peshawar movie theater which has now resulted in five deaths, AFP reported, noting that the blast followed others in Islamabad and Parachinar. Pakistani media have not been observed to report on the arrest of Afghan suspects although the Peshawar blast in which "at least two persons were killed" was reported by Karachi radio.

Meanwhile, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq gave a "categorical assurance of fair, peaceful, and impartial elections" in an address in Lahore, according to Karachi radio. The elected advisory council "will enjoy total power to decide future national policies, including the form of government and the constitution," he declared.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 209 *26 October 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal Agrees To Pardon French Journalist ..... C 1
Charge on Abouchar's Release *[Paris International]* ..... C 1
Pakistani Charge Handed Protest Note on Provocations ..... C 1
PDPA's Ziray Chairs Fatherland Front Meeting ..... C 1
Defense Ministry Issues Conscription, Discharge Order ..... C 2
Kabul Notes 'Sacred Duty' of Armed Forces ..... C 2
Clandestine Radio on Anti-Government Actions ..... C 2
[Voice of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan]

BANGLADESH

Ershad: No Election If Opposition Boycotts ..... D 1
Delhi: Opposition Demands Election Postponement ..... D 1
UK's Princess Anne Visits Khulna, Projects ..... D 1
Visits Agriculture Units ..... D 1

INDIA

Gandhi Cautions People Against 'Divisive Forces' ..... E 1
Eighteen Injured in Delhi Bomb Blast 25 Oct ..... E 1
Finance Minister Discusses Outlook for Economy ..... E 1
NATIONAL HERALD on U.S. Arms Aid to Pakistan *[19 Oct]* ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

Zia on Upcoming Elections, Border Issues ..... F 1
'Strong Protest' Lodged on Afghan Border Attack ..... F 1
Death Toll in Peshawar Bomb Blast Reaches 5 ..... F 2
AFP: Afghan 'Agents' Arrested ..... F 2
Air Force 'Jetstream' Exercises Begin 25 Oct ..... F 2
Commentator Criticizes Indian Media's Reporting ..... F 2
Briefs: More Reactors in India ..... F 3

IRAN

Khomeyni Receives Zahirnezhad, Sohrabi, Envoy to Syria ..... I 1
Biography of New Chief of the Joint Staff ..... I 1
Zahirnezhad Attends Pilot Ceremony 10 Oct *[ETTELA'AT 11 Oct]* ..... I 1
Velayati Outlines Government Foreign Policy ..... I 1
Stresses Cultural Heritage ..... I 2
Velayati Pledges Support for Polisario Front ..... I 2
Spokesman Denies 'Mediation' Visit by PLO Official ..... I 2

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No. 1,891 ..... I 2
72 Iraqi POW's Handed Over to Red Cross ..... I 2
Oil Ministry Statement on OPEC Prices, Strategy ..... I 3
Minister Urges More Reconstruction Effort in Esfahan ..... I 3
London KEYHAN Reports Clashes in Tehran *[18 Oct]* ..... I 3
Afghan Mujahidin Operations in Panjsher Valley *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 9 Oct]* ..... I 4

Karmal Agrees To Pardon French Journalist

LD251836 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] According to information reaching Kabul, De La Malene,head of France's *NATION* magazine, sent a message to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, asking clemency for Jacques Abouchar, a Frencn citizen.

In reply to this message Babrak Karmal pointed out that in view of good relations with and deep feelings of friendship for the people of France and for humanitarian reasons, and despite the severity of Abouchar's crime, he should be pardoned.

BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reports that the reply message requests that a member or members of the French National Assembly be sent to Kabul to receive Abouchar.

In addition the message states that responsible French authorities must pay serious attention that such an incident not be repeated. Otherwise the consequence of such incidents will rest on French authorities, and the DRA [word indistinct] will fully implement its laws and regulations against such persons.

Charge on Abouchar's Release

LD251742 Paris International Service in French 1700 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Jacques Abouchar will return to France very soon, perhaps even tomorrow.

As soon as National Assembly Speaker Louis Mermez was informed of this, he asked Socialist deputy from Essonne Yves Tavernier to go immediately to Kabul to get Jacques Abouchar. The choice of Yves Tavernier is not a haphazard one because he is in fact chairman of the Assembly group on Afghan affairs. Representatives of the four groups in the Assembly have just now expressed satisfaction with the happy ending of this affair, a happy ending which could take place as early as tomorrow. Yves Tavernier is, in fact, to leave Paris tonight onboard a special plane to Kabul. So Jacques Abouchar's return may take place in the coming 24 hours, time enough to settle the last technical problems. This information was confirmed less than 1 hour ago by the Afghan charge d'affaires in Paris, Keshtmand who was contacted on the phone by Ulysse Gosset:

[Begin recording] [Keshtmand] The embassy states that the request for clemency formulated on behalf of all deputies by National Assembly Speaker Louis Mermez is being examined by President Karmal, chairman of the Revolutionary Council presidium, with a view to granting an immediate pardon.

[Gosset] In your view, how long will this examination take, and can one believe that Jacques Abouchar will be released tomorrow, for example?

[Keshtmand] I believe that this pardon will be granted very quickly and it cannot be ruled out that Jacques Abouchar may be released tomorrow following this pardon.

[Gosset] You know, Mr Keshtmand, that a French Government special plane is to leave tonight for Afghanistan. In your view, could Abouchar return on this plane?

[Keshtmand] It is quite possible, yes, when this imminent pardon is granted. Jacques Abouchar could return to France immediately. [end recording]

To sum it up: Jacques Abouchar may have the chance of being pardoned as early as today or tomorrow at the latest.He could return to Paris in the coming 24 hours.

Pakistani Charge Handed Protest Note on Provocations

LD251648 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning at 1000. The following matters were stated to him by the official in charge of the first political section concerning recent aggression and provocations by Pakistani border units against the DRA territory:

Notwithstanding repeated notices by the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Government of Pakistan through its embassy to cease armed provocations and aggression by Pakistani border forces against the sanctity of the air and land boundaries of the DRA, these provocations have not ceased, but have been intensified.

According to reports by the relevant authorities of the DRA, as has been already brought to the notice of the Pakistani Embassy, the aggressive forces of Pakistan took up position on 19 October 2-3-km east of Barikot, 55-km east of Asadabad. Since that date, every day the Pakistani forces have engaged in provocative operations inside the territory of the DRA, making use of mortars, artillery, and other heavy weapons. As a result of these hostile actions, several citizens and military staff have been injured and martyred.

At 1430 on 22 October, four people were severely wounded and an aircraft was damaged as a result of four rockets fired from Pakistani territory while two Afghan helicopters were landing in Barikot.

The DRA vigorously protests and condemns these provocative, hostile actions by Pakistani border units. In addition, it states that if such provocative, hostile actions by Pakistan against the DRA continue, responsibility for their grave consequences will fully rest on the Pakistani authorities. The DRA reserves the right to take the necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

PDPA's Ziray Chairs Fatherland Front Meeting

LD252324 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text]An extraordinary session of the National Fatherland Front [NFF] Central Council Executive Committee was held today in

the hall of the front's Central Council to discuss the resolution of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo on further progress of the NFF. The meeting was chaired by Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the NFF.

Saleh Mohammad Ziray spoke at the meeting about the value of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo's recent resolution which carefully and scientifically assessed the work of the NFF during the past 3 years. He said he regards the above resolution on further progress of the front as a valuable step.

The plan on measures of the NFF Central Council, prepared in light of the resolution of the PDPA Central Committee, was then submitted to the Executive Committee meeting. After due consideration and all-round discussion, the plan was approved.

Defense Ministry Issues Conscription, Discharge Order
LD252238 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] The DRA Minister of National Defense has issued the following order concerning the periodic discharge of soldiers and NCO's of regular and reserve units who have completed their specified term of service, and the conscription of new and reserve soldiers to the ranks of the DRA Armed Forces in accordance with the General Military Conscription Law:

1. Soldiers and NCO's of regular and reserve units whose term of military service is completed by 3 November this year will be discharged from the ranks of the Armed Forces between 21 October and 21 November.

Soldiers and NCO's who are regarded as eligable for discharge are conscripts, regular, and reserve soldiers who have completed 3 years or more in combat units by 3 November 1984.

Soldiers and NCO's of conscript units, regular units, and reserve units who are serving in logistic, guard, and supply units and companies, by order of the capital and in accordance with the list approved by the DRA Council of Ministers, will be regarded as eligible for dischargeafter completion of the fourth year of service.

2. Commanders of large companies of units and institutions should issue discharge certificates for the soldiers and NCO's of their units in equal manner — one-half in the first month from 4 November to 4 December, and one-half in the second month from 4 December to 4 January, taking into consideration the entry date and war preparedness. [sentence as heard]

3. In reference to the issuing of discharge certificates in accordance with Article 1 of this order, male subjects of the DRA between ages 18 and 19 and reserve men under age 40 who are not eligible for deferment, should be called up for military service in the ranks of the DRA Armed Forces.

Kabul Notes 'Sacred Duty' of Armed Forces
LD252256 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1200 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] With the victory of the national democratic April revolution and its new development stage, breaking forever the last dark chains of reaction and international imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism, the people, under the leadership of the PDPA and the revolutionary state, became the owners of all spiritual and material properties. They advanced toward prosperity and a better life. Then an unholy alliance of imperialism, hegemonism, and regional reaction unleashed an undeclared war against our revolution, homeland, and people, creating an obstacle on the revolutionary path. Under these conditions, the most sacred duty of every patriotic individual is to defend our people, homeland, and revolution, from the aggression of heretic forces of reaction and international imperialism.

Today, when all the heretic forces have embarked on an undeclared war against our revolution, homeland, and people, the new generation of the country has closed ranks by organizing in the Armed Forces, the sarandoy [Soviet-trained police], and self-defense committees. This militant unity of youth in the ranks of the Armed Forces, the sarandoy, and the self-defense committees will defeat imperialism and reaction of the region. The enemy, who have lost their former advantage in our country and whose dark deeds have been ended in this cradle of heroes, despite the shameful defeats they have suffered, still try to erect obstacles on the path of the revolutionary process.

We all know well that the reactionary, imperialist, and hegemonist forces on the other side of our borders are gathering together. They shed crocodile tears at the death of their agents and promise further military, financial, and material aid to the shamed and defeated. These hostile actions of the brutal heretics and murderers make it a heavier burden for the party, state, and people to defend the revolution and national honor. Youths who join the ranks of the Armed Forces, the sarandoy, and the self-defense committees, realize the demands of the party, the state, and the people as their sacred duty.

Clandestine Radio on Anti-Government Actions
GF261900 (Clandestine) Voice of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The holy crusade and the clashes in Qandahar City and its surrounding area still continue, and our crusading brothers have been putting up a strong resistance. In continuation of the same heroic operations our crusading brothers launched an attack on three posts of the Soviet occupying force and that of the Karmal mercenaries in Qandahar City and killed four enemy mercenaries. During the past few days a large number of government soldiers in Qandahar City has surrendered and joined the ranks of our crusading brothers.

According to a report, our crusading brothers, made a planned, coordinated guerrilla attack on the sports stadium of Mazar-e Sharif. As a result of this attack a post of the occupying enemy forces was totally destroyed and a number of Karmal mercenaries were killed. In the same operation seven government soldiers surrendered to our Muslim crusaders bringing their weapons with them. On 1 October, in a planned, coordinated attack carried out by our crusading brothers around Mazar-e Sharif, about 1,000 books of communist [word indistinct] burned in a fire; the family of the mercenary also suffered in the fire. On the same day, in continuation of defections to the ranks of our crusading brothers, four government soldiers under the command of Ghulam Sakhi joined the ranks of our crusading brothers at (Chargin).

Ershad: No Election If Opposition Boycotts

BK251215 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Addressing a meeting of the chairmen of the union councils in Dhaka today, President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Hussein Mohammad Ershad has stressed on the need for national unity in the formation of the future government and its political and economic systems. He said that the people's welfare should be the primary objective of our politics, and keeping this in mind, the 100 million people of the country will have to decide through negotiations about the formation of the future government and its course of action. He called upon the politicians to place before the people their programs and earn their confidence. The president said that if they can win the verdict of the people, the government will gladly accept it.

The president said that the political objective of the present government is to meet the minimum living requirements for the people and assure them of a bright future.

He said that his government is making untiring efforts toward the goal of transition to democracy and the date for holding the parliamentary election has already been announced. He stated with regret that although their demands were met, the opposition parties are now opposing the holding of election. If they do not want an election, the government will not hold one. In fact, they have opposed all elections, including the elections to the union council. In the light of their demands the government has postponed the holding of subdistrict elections.

General Ershad said that under no circumstances anyone will be allowed to create obstancles in the development work or disrupt law and order in the country.

Delhi: Opposition Demands Election Postponement

BK260327 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, the Islamic united front of 14 rightist political parties and groups has demanded the postponement of parliamentary elections scheduled for the 8th of December. The chairman of the front, Maulana A.K.M. Faruq, told a news conference in Dhaka yesterday that the present political and economic situation will not be conducive to holding elections.

Mr Faruq urged the government to convene a round table conference of all political parties to arrive at a consensus on a new date for national elections acceptable to all.

Meanwhile, President Ershad has said that parliamentary elections will not be held on December the 8th if major opposition groups refuse to take part.

UK's Princess Anne Visits Khulna, Projects

BK251255 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] Princess Anne, now on a 6-day visit to Bangladesh, has left Khulna a short while ago for Jessore on the way to Dhaka. She reached Khulna this morning.

In Khulna, Princess Anne, president of the Save the Children Fund, saw the clinic run by the fund, a slum development project, and a food gift project.

Visits Agriculture Units

BK261005 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] Princess Anne visited the nutrition unit of the Save the Children Fund in Dhaka this morning. Extensive medical treatment is provided to the malnourished children in this 7-bed unit. The princess toured different departments of the unit, including the outpatient and the mothers' nutrition education section.

From there Princess Anne went to inspect the proposed site of a new unit, which will be built with the help of the Bangladesh Government and Town Women Organization of Britain. This voluntary organization, which is linked with the whole of United Kingdom, is expected to collect 750,000 pounds sterling for the construction and management of this unit.

Princess Anne also visited the agricultural workshop and training university at Mirpur in Dhaka.

Gandhi Cautions People Against 'Divisive Forces'

BK251515 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, today cautioned the people against divisive forces which, she said, must be fought at every level. Addressing a delegation of the National Integration Committee of Calcutta in New Delhi today, the prime minister said the nation can become strong and march ahead only if there is unity within. Mrs Gandhi said that messages of Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Mahavira about nonviolence and peace are more relevant at this juncture.

Eighteen Injured in Delhi Bomb Blast 25 Oct

BK260302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] About 18 people were injured when a crude bomb exploded outside a cinema hall in west Delhi last night. According to the deputy police commissioner, the bomb was hurled from outside and exploded near the booking counter of the cinema hall. The police are investigating.

Finance Minister Discusses Outlook for Economy

BK241656 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Text] The country's economy is poised to exceed the planned growth rate of 5.2 percent for the first time. The finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, told our Calcutta correspondent that the overall performance of the Indian economy has been remarkable having achieved a growth rate of over 5 percent during the last 4 years. Industrial production also picked up recently registering a growth of 8.4 percent during the first 4 months of the current year.

Mr Mukherjee said that higher food production of 26 million tons last year has enabled the country to save foreign exchange worth about 17,000 crore rupees. The sixth plan public sector outlay at current prices will cross 110,000 crore rupees against the plan target of 87,500 crores, the minister said.

NATIONAL HERALD on U.S. Arms Aid to Pakistan

BK241449 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 19 Oct 84 p 7

[Editorial: "External Threat"]

[Text] Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has once again cautioned all countrymen against external as well as internal threats to India's security and integrity. "While our Army is strong enough to meet any external threat, the people should always keep themselves ready to deal firmly with the challenges from within". She has rightly blamed the opposition for minimising the threat by external forces by "meddling in our internal affairs". Concerned at the massive arms aid to Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi has given a timely warning that although India firmly believes in the policy of peaceful co-existence and non-violence, it will not tolerate any "invasion at any cost". The Bharatiya Janata Party which made a lot of noise in Pune was conspicuously silent on the issue of threats from outside. Those who are trying to ignore or belittle this warning in the face of serious developments across our borders are doing so at a grave national risk. How can anyone disbelieve or ignore the news of the biggest-ever military exercises in Pakistan all along the border from Punch to Shankargarh?

Besides rushing sophisticated arms to Pakistan, the U.S.has rejected Senator Cranston's amendment in the current year's emergency spending bill which was meant to deny Pakistan F-16's unless she stopped her nuclear project to produce an Islamic bomb. On top of it all, the secret U.S. intelligence agencies released an inspired, motivated and baseless report alleging that India was thinking of a pre-emptive attack on Pakistan's nuclear facilities. Despite U.S. disclaimers, more and more arms are being offered to Pakistan. Is it not causing destabilisation in the region which needs peace for progress?

Assured of U.S. tacit suppor', Pakistan has begun to blow hot and cold. Speaking at a breakfast meeting in Washington, where he canvassed more American aid as also a commitment from the U.S. for material and strategical support for Pakistan's aggressive ventures in Afghanistan and in India, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said "we take the threat seriously and our military planning must proceed on the basis of the unfavourable hypothesis". Cynically he said that "much as we admire Christianity, turning the other cheek does not fit into our ethos". Pakistani military rulers are thus busy whipping up a war psychosis which is directly related to the dangerous U.S. policy of confrontation with the Soviet Union and her dislike for India's growing influence in the nonaligned world.

Zia on Upcoming Elections, Border Issues

BK251700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Excerpts] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has given categorical assurance of fair, peaceful, and impartial elections in the country so that an elected government could have an opportunity to serve Islam and the country. Addressing the concluding session of the Punjab Provincial Council and the members of the Federal Advisory Council in Lahore today, he said all rumors about the possibility of postponement of elections are totally baseless and the people creating such doubts and suspicions cannot wish the country and nation well. The government will make every possible effort to maintain a peaceful atmosphere during elections. Besides this, nobody will be allowed to carry out any destructive activity, and the buying and selling of votes will be impossible.

He said the decision to conduct elections on party or nonparty basis has been made but an announcement to this effect will be made at an appropriate time. The country cannot afford a prolonged election campaign and hence its period will be very short. Actually, the election campaign has already started on a smaller scale. The election commission has begun its work; the Armed Forces are ready to discharge their responsibilities in connection with the conduct of elections; many political leaders have been released.

The president said the future system of government will be based on the concept of consultation and the future elected advisory council will enjoy total power to decide future national policies, including the form of government and the constitution in the country.

Referring to the situation on the eastern and western borders, the president told the council that it is certainly a matter of concern but of no danger. The developments taking place in the east and west cannot be ignored and we are cautiously watching the situation.

The president regretted that despite all its sincere efforts, Pakistan has not been successful in establishing tension-free relations with India. The Indian Government demonstrated a positive role at certain stages; but it changes its attitude suddenly, and unfriendly statements begin coming in from that side. Pakistan on its part is determined not to be provoked; it hopes that the Government of India will adopt a positive attitude for establishing peace in the subcontinent. It is Pakistan's permanent policy not to interfere in the internal affairs of any other country. He said it is regrettable that baseless allegations were made from that side about our attitude toward incidents of hijacking and Sikh protests in eastern Punjab. Pakistan has categorically explained its position and denied the allegations on a number of occasions. However Pakistan will not impose restrictions on those who want to visit their sacred places in Pakistan, the president observed.

Referring to the latest situation on the western border, General Ziaul Haq said that the resistance movement is continuing in Afhanistan and the Soviet Union is increasing its forces there. Pakistan's effort is to find a political and peaceful solution to the problem through the special representative of the UN secretary general. He hoped that a positive solution to the Afghanistan problem would be found at the next round of the Geneva talks.

The president said although the situation on the border is not dangerous, the entire nation will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Armed Forces like a rock to face aggression for safeguarding the independence and integrity of the country and will foil aggressive designs of the enemies of Pakistan.

The president assured the nation that the situation is fully under control and the borders are being guarded in an appropriate manner. The clouds of war lie very far away, and efforts are being made to push them even farter away.

Speaking on the internal situation, especially in Sind, the president said there are political as well as economic causes for this situation. Sind enjoys a remarkable position in the development and prosperity of the country. He strongly denied the mischievous rumors of certain elements that efforts are being made to usurp the rights of Sind people and to cause harm to its culture. The truth is that only a handful of elements want to create disorder and disturbances but their nefarious and abominable designs will not succeed. The president said the situation in the province is fully under control.

Discussing economic affairs, the president said the condition of cotton crops is very good at this time and 50 lakh bales of cotton is expected to be produced this year. The basic structure of cotton prices announced by the government should be maintained.

The president expressed the hope that the people of Punjab, who were at the forefront in the movement for Pakistan and during the passing of the resolution on Pakistan, will remain at the forefront in the demand for the establishment of an Islamic system in the country.

'Strong Protest' Lodged on Afghan Border Attack

BK251550 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] A Pakistani citizen was killed in firing at the Almur post in Chitral from the Afghan side last Sunday [21 October]. The same day, three Afghan jet aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace over Chitral and dropped a bomb near Arange at 1000 [0500 GMT]. The explosion, however, caused no loss of life.

The Afghan charge d' affaires was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him against continued violations of Pakistan's airspace and firing at Pakistani territory from Afghanistan, in this case claiming one valuable life. He was told that the Kabul administration is increasing tension on Pakistan's western border through such actions that might bring serious consequences for the peace and stability of the region. He was also told that the government and the people of Pakistan are viewing with great concern the continued provocations from the Afghan side and that the entire responsibility for the consequences will rest with the Kabul administration.

The UN secretary general has been apprised of these latest violations of Pakistani territory and airspace by the Kabul administration.

Death Toll in Peshawar Bomb Blast Reaches 5
BK251522 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] The North-West Frontier Province governor, Lieutenant General Fazle Haq, visited Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar, this morning to inquire about the welfare of those who were injured in a blast in a local cinema hall last night. He directed the hospital administration to give every attention to their treatment.

Meanwhile, The death toll in the blast has now risen to five as three more persons succumbed to their injuries.

AFP: Afghan 'Agents' Arrested
NC251527 Paris AFP in English 1452 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 25 (AFP) — Three suspected Afghan KHAD secret police agents have been arrested after last night's powerful bomb explosion in a cinema in Peshawar bordering Afghanistan, informed sources said today.

The death toll from the explosion now stood at five, official sources said, as three of the 25 wounded died of their injuries in hospital.

Police did not rule out sabotage as the blast followed two other explosions in Islamabad and in Parachinar, another border town.

Eyewitnesses said the blast shook the building and set fire to seats in the crowded cinema hall besides damaging the building.

Reliable sources said an Afghan refugee was among those detained in connection with the bomb explosion.

According to sources in Peshawar, Afghan intelligence agents have infiltrated into Pakistan as refugees to carry out subversive activities. The sources did not rule out more such blasts in future.

Air Force 'Jetstream' Exercises Begin 25 Oct
BK260238 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Text] The "Jetstream" exercises of 1984 of the Pakistani Air Force began yesterday. The Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Anwar Shamim, presided over a conference of senior Air Force officials in Rawalpindi in connection with the beginning of the exercises.

Commentator Criticizes Indian Media's Reporting
BK260456 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 25 Oct 84

[A.B. Azim commentary]

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated its sincere commitment to the process of normalization of relations with India, promotion of peace and amity, and its readiness to resume the dialogue on any aspect to improve the bilateral relations. This reiteration of the official policy was contained in a press note issued recently by the Embassy of Pakistan in New Delhi. The purpose was to arrest the trend toward worsening of relations and the injection of tension in the atmosphere prevailing at the present time. The embassy regretted that the Indian media was playing a part which sought to undermine goodwill and generate tension between the people of the two countries. For this purpose, the media relied on baseless and sensational reports which were (?still carried). The end product of this attitude would naturally be harmful for the development of good-neighborly relations. One of the reports played up by the media to create sensation was about the so-called Pakistani troops concentration and for allegedly holding biggest ever military exercises along the border from Punch to Shakargarh. The embassy in its press release denied there were any major or unusual exercise being carried out along the border.

It seems that there are certain elements in India which have a vested interest in strained relations between the two countries. For them, relations based on mutual goodwill and cooperation are an anathema and they feel their interest would be jeopardized if harmony was established between the two countries. Some time ago, there was the campaign against the purchase of defense equipment by Pakistan. At one stage, India conceded that Pakistan in exercise of her sovereign right was fully competent to determine its own defense needs, and henceforth they would not object. But this change was short-lived and the vilification campaign resumed after a short interval, and continues unabated. It is again being repeated that the acquisition of arms by Pakistan, which are for its defense, was a threat to Indian security. However, the fact is that India goes shopping for arms in the Western world and also amasses a variety of sophisticated weapons at concessional rates from the Soviet Union with no ostensible threat or degree of danger to its security from any side or even looming on the distant horizon. Such attitude pollutes the atmosphere and precludes a meaningful dialogue in order to establish the relations on the basis of good-neighborliness or an even keel free of tension.

The quest for peace by Pakistan extends to every country, especially its neighbors. Pakistan is constantly endeavoring for a political solution of the Afghanistan problem, which has come about by the presence of foreign troops in that country. Similarly, Pakistan has offered a no-war pact to India and is ready to enter into discussions for developing patterns of peace and cooperation. Pakistan wants the old chapter of conflict, confrontation and acrimony closed forever and its replacement with durable peace and normal good-neighborly and cooperative relations. It wants harmony instead of discord and recrimination.

Some of the initiatives taken by Pakistan over the years need recounting. They include a proposal for mutual reduction of forces, an agreement on military ratios, the establishment of a nuclear-free zone besides lending support to the proposal for advancing the cause of peace put forward by other countries of the South Asian region.

Some progress has been made in bringing about more constructive relationship between India and Pakistan. This was achieved by the setting up of a joint commission early last year with a view to strengthening mutual confidence. But the progress has been marred by the sudden stoppage of dialogue on the part of India. Peace and cooperation between India and Pakistan and a harmonious bilateral relation is a vital necessity to banish backwardness from this region and to raise the standard of living of the people of the two neighboring states. It is for the votaries for peace in India to come forward to play an active role to remedy the situation.

Briefs

More Reactors in India — The Chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Raja Ramanna, has spoken of the 15-year programme of India envisaging the setting up of 12 more nuclear reactors in the country. He was delivering a lecture on the 15-year programme for nuclear power in India in New Delhi on Monday. He said that the nuclear energy is the only alternative to ensure the availability of cheap electricity in future. [Text][*Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Oct p 1 GF*]

Khomeyni Receives Zahirnezhad, Sohrabi, Envoy to Syria

LD251337 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Syria, was received today by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, the representative of the imam in the Supreme Defense Council, and Colonel Sohrabi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also met today with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Biography of New Chief of the Joint Staff

LD251848 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 25 Oct 84

["Biography of the New Chief of the Joint Staff" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA — Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi, who was appointed today as the new chief of Joint Staff by Imam Khomeyni, replacing General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad, was born in Bakhtaran, capital of Bakhtaran Province in 1938.

He completed his elementary and high school education in Bakhtaran and entered the Officers Academy Tehran in 1960, where he graduated in 1964.

After the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution of Iran, in March 1979 he was sent to Saqqez, Kordestan Province to fight against the agents of the world oppressors where he played an effective role in purging the region from these elements.

In the course of the four-year-old Iraqi-imposed war, he served as commander of the first armoured brigade of Islamabad-e Gharb, Bakhtaran Province, and commander of the 81st armoured division of Bakhtaran. He was also one of the commanders of the Muslim Ibn 'Aqil operations, carried out near the Iraqi town of Mandali.

Prior to his appointment, he was the military commander of Fars region and commander of the infantry center of Shiraz, capital of Fars Province.

Zahirnezhad Attends Pilot Ceremony 10 Oct

GF251307 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] Esfahan — Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, [then] chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran,, along with Colonel Seddiq, Air Force commander and Hojjat-ol Eslam 'Alavi, supervisor of political ideology, yesterday morning visited the eighth hunter base of Esfahan Province to participate in the graduation ceremony for the pilots of F-14 aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to look into problems at the base. They were received by the commander of the base, other military commanders, disciplinary officers, and provincial officials.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, after the troop review and a maneuver by one of the Air Force F-14's, the graduation ceremony for the Air Force F-14 pilots commenced.

During this ceremony in which the military and disciplinary commanders of the base also participated, the commander of the eighth hunter base submitted a report on the activities and operations of this base during the imposed war.

Then the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented degrees and awards to the graduates of the F-14 aircraft and also issued commendation certificates to instructors and to the vigilant and committed personnel of this base who have taken an active part in the training. Regarding the example set for the Army of the Islamic Republic by the school of Imam Hoseyn, and considering the unequal situation of the armies of Iran and Iraq at the start of the war, the chief of staff said: Today the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran is at its highest strength.

Brig Gen Commander Zahirnezhad and his party then inspected various section of the eighth hunter base.

Velayati Outlines Government Foreign Policy

LD251715 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA — Foreign Afairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, speaking to the personnel of the Joint Staff headquarters here Thursday outlined the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said Iran was the vanguard of independence from the two power blocs of East and West.

Further on Iranian foreign policy, he said that it was based on Islamic and national ideals and the principles of the constitutional law of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that the principles of Iranian foreign policy were unique ones and had no equal in the present world.

Further on Iran's neither East, nor West policy, he said this policy is not in the interest of superpowers and therefore, they would stand against it. Furthermore, the two big powers are worried that once Iran becomes successful in this policy, other Third World and Islamic countries would follow suit.

Due to the point that the Non-Aligned Movement has been unable to meet the goals of the Third World countries in gaining independence, the principles of Iranian foreign policy, once successful, would flourish rapidly among these countries.

In another part of his speech, referring to the fear of Marxist ideology from Islam, he said that the superpowers are trying to tarnish Islamic ideology and portray the Iranian leaders as ingenuine [as received] Muslims. By doing so they want to disappoint people of the world with Islam.

He further added that the enemies of the Islamic Revolution have been waiting to magnify mistakes of the Islamic Republic of Iran and mar it. Therefore, "we act in a way to make our allies happy and our enemies disappointed," he said.

Stresses Cultural Heritage

GF260616 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Oct 84

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Velayati visited the headquarters of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He explained Iran's foreign policy, its sensitive role in the region, and the cultural and religious infrastructure of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the personnel at this headquarters.

According to a report by IRNA, at this meeting which was also attended by Brigadier Zahirnezhad, the imam's deputy to the Supreme Defense Council, Mr Velayati discussed the various impediments to the Islamic Republic's foreign policy. The foreign minister further said: We do not have any other alternative in our country except independence. He explained and assessed the evils of and the conspiracies by the accursed Pahlavi regime to obliterate and distort the fruitful Islamic culture. He referred to the 1000-year old efforts of our people to safeguard the independence of the country. He stressed that the secret of this lay in the national, humanitarian, and Islamic fervor of the people.

Mr Velayati reminded those present that a cultural onslaught is the forerunner of a political onslaught, He said: During our country's history, when faced with a cultural onslaught, one of the combatant clergymen was always (?against) it.

He added: Protecting culture and knowledge is in fact protecting the citadel and base of the country's independence.

Concluding, he reiterated his insistence on the rich culture and character of our country and explained the efforts of the former regime in defacing the culture of our country.

Velayati Pledges Support for Polisario Front

LD251809 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA — Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) ambassador to Tehran, Sadegh Malaini, in a meeting with the foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here Thursday presented a message from President Mohamed Abdelaziz addressed to President 'Ali Khamene'i

The SADR ambassador informed Velayati of the latest gains of the Polisario front's forces in a recent operation against the forces of King Hassan and also the decision of his country to attend the next meeting of African leaders.

He stressed greater cooperation between the two countries in their campaign against world oppressors and the reactionary regimes of the region.

Foreign Minister Velayati reiterated support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Polisario front in its struggle against world oppression and the Moroccan regime.

He stressed that the people of Iran would side with the Saharan people in their struggle against the U.S. Government and its allies.

Spokesman Denies 'Mediation' Visit by PLO Official

LD252214 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA — A Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman here this afternoon categorically denied rumours concerning a trip to Tehran of a special representative of Yasir 'Arafat in connection with mediation efforts to end the Iraqi-imposed war.

He said that such rumours were spread because of the latest victories of the Iranian forces. Furthermore, such rumours were related to attempts by the U.S. and the reactionary governments of the region to provide Saddam Husayn with an escape route.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No. 1,891

LD251804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced in its Communique No 1,891 that in the past 24 hours exchanges of fire and limited clashes continued in the general sector of Meymak. In the newly liberated regions, our forces continued to collect and load tools and equipment left behind by the enemy. Mopping up operations and consolidation of captured positions continued in the region. In addition, as a result of continued observation and dispatch of patrol groups, our forces controlled enemy movements. They halted enemy relocation by opening heavy fire on them.

On other operational fronts in the west of the country, our combatants continued to crush and level enemy positions and trenches. The aggressors' engineering operations along the contact lines were obstructed as a result of heavy weapons fire by the forces of Islam. The enemy's observed losses in this sector included 15 weapons and observation posts, 2 tanks, 2 trucks, and an ammunition dump. The enemy lost more than 13 soldiers, dead or injured.

Yesterday, in the northwest operational sector, as a result of our artillery units fire, enemy infantry and vehicle movements were halted and an enemy reconnaissance operation aimed at penetrating the positions of Islam's forces was discovered and neutralized. In this region 20 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded, and 2 trucks and 12 heavy and light weapons emplacements belonging to the aggressors were set afire and destroyed.

In the southern operational sector, our forces opened fire on enemy engineering equipment and infantry entrusted with the task of establishing or consolidating positions. The intensity of fire was greatest in Shrahani, Kushk, Jazzabeh, and Hoseyniyeh. Four enemy bunkers were destroyed west of the Arvand River.

72 Iraqi POW's Handed Over to Red Cross

LD251722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Excerpt] Following the humanitarian decision by the Islamic Republic of Iran to release a number of disabled Iraqi POW's every 2 months, this afternoon 72 Iraqi POW's were handed over

to representatives of the Red Cross in the presence of representatives from the Interior Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, and the supervisor of the POW Cultural Affairs Committee. The POW's are to be returned to their country via Turkey.

It should be noted that these people were to have been returned to their country 2 weeks ago, but because of procrastination by Red Cross officials in Tehran, their departure had to be postponed until today.

Oil Ministry Statement on OPEC Prices, Strategy

LD251531 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 25 Oct 84

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Oil Ministry announced its position with regard to the OPEC session to be held in Geneva on 29 October.

The statement says: During the last session of the OPEC oil ministers conference, held 10-11 July, the need to control and maintain OPEC's production level at an agreed level of 17.5 million barrels per calendar day in order to defend OPEC's crude price framework once again secured the support and agreement of all members. During that session the relative weakness of the oil market was attributed to certain members' production being beyond their quotas and to the reduction in oil prices. It was decided that in order to exchange views, two OPEC delegations should meet the heads of the member-countries while a third delegation should contact the major non-OPEC oil producers. In this connection a delegation made up of the oil ministers of the UAE, Algeria, and Venezuela met and held talks with Mr Khamene'i, the esteemed president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Even before the arrival of that delegation, in order to maintain the strength of the oil market and prevent a fall in prices, Iran, selflessly and despite the severe currency needs of the continuing Zionist Iraqi regime's imposed war, reduced its oil production to about half the stipulated quota. As a result of this step and the lowering of production by certain other OPEC member-states, the course of declining prices in the crude oil market was halted and relative stability was achieved. The level of reductions called by customers in connection with the official price of Iranian crude dropped to about $1 per barrel from a level of $3-4 per barrel. However, the major non-OPEC oil producers — apart from the USSR and, in particular, Mexico — by establishing an understanding with OPEC, prevented the reduction of their oil price. It was expected that in such a climate of understanding and with the estimated increase in demand during the winter, the market would enjoy greater strength this year. Certain OPEC oil ministers even spoke of increasing their production levels and quotas.

Despite all these expectations, world arrogance — led by the United States and its tools — entered the arena in accordance with a calculated plot. By carrying out certain maneuvers by certain countries, they prepared the ground for an official reduction in prices.

The Oil Ministry statement, referring to the reduction in crude oil prices by Norway and Britain, despite their previously declared positions, and the subsequent reduction in the price of Nigerian crude oil because of the similarity between its crude oil and that of the North Sea, said: The Oil Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that a reduction in the price of crude oil would not be passed on to the final consumer; rather the profits obtained therefrom would be poured into the coffers of the oil companies and arrogant powers to the detriment of the oil producers. In the meantime, the only way to strengthen the market and to prevent a fall in prices is to reduce and control production with the aim of establishing a balance between supply and demand. It is essential that all OPEC member-countries carry out the necessary cooperation toward this end.

The Oil Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran also believes that because of the insignificant exports by Norway and Britain, the reduction of the price of oil by these two countries will not have much effect on the oil market. Therefore, OPEC member-countries, by safeguarding their monolithic unity and by taking a firm step toward reducing their production could resist the plot hatched by the arrogant powers.

In conclusion, the Oil Ministry statement reads: The Islamic Republic of Iran, while defending its just positions, has repeatedly proved that the meek countries of the world, when necessary, can resist the plots and threats of the superpowers and world arrogance.

Minister Urges More Reconstruction Effort in Esfahan

GF201200 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Oct 84

[Text] Mr Abdollah Nuri, the imam's representative to the reconstruction crusade, told a meeting of reconstruction crusade members and other officials in Esfahan that if we are to succeed in our objectives, the people must help solve the problems of the country and the problems of the electoral constituency No 2. He also asked for help from clergy, technicians, experts, university faculty, workers, farmers, Islamic councils and societies and the general public to carry out reconstruction work.

Mr Abdollah Nuri asked for a more rapid performance of duties and activities by the reconstruction crusade and appealed to the public to help complete reconstruction of war-damaged areas as soon as possible.

London KEYHAN Reports Clashes in Tehran

GF241810 London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 84 p 14

[Text] During the 'Ashura period, mourning ceremonies in a number of areas of Tehran caused clashes between Khomeyni's supporters and his opposition. During the chest-beating and prayer ceremonies in Imam Hoseyn Square (formerly Shahnaz), during 'Ashura, a number of anti-Khomeyni pamphlets were distributed. This resulted in clashes and the wounding of a number of supporters of Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Following a sermon by Ayatollah 'Alavi-Shriazi in Narmak's Hoseyniyeh, the speakers began broadcasting music, some of which had a rather lively beat and was enjoyable. This resulted in complaints by a group of participants. During his Friday sermon, President Khamene'i strongly attacked the broadcasting of music during the mourning period and said: There is a group who wants to destroy Islam and who played enjoyable music and recited so-called revolutionary poems.

In Seyyed 'Azizollah Mosque, in Tehran's bazaar district, a mourning group appeared with a full orchestra and recited a number of religious poems accompanied with exciting music. Ayatollah Emami-Kashani who was delivering a sermon in the bazaar's mourning ceremony severely criticized the music during the mourning period.

Reports coming from other areas including Tabriz, Mashaad, Kerman, and Reza'iyeh said that during some of the mourning ceremonies, anti-Khomeyni slogans were chanted and in several instances the Guards quickly stopped the ceremonies. In Niavaran's cultural club, a religious play was staged, accompanied by music. According to the audience it was more like a comedy. During the play a lion enters the Karbala Desert and begs the imam to be allowed to fight against the forces of Yazid. However this is refused. The arrival of the lion on the stage caused laughter among the audience and resulted in a clash. Khamene'i, in his sermon, described the presence of the lion as a "plot" and said that to commemorate 'Ashura, neither music nor a lion is required.

Another clash occured near Cheshmeh 'Ali during the filming of some scenes of the movie "The Day It Happened." This is a movie with a budget of one billion rials and a scenario written by Bahram Beyza'i. The nephew of the late Ayatollah Beheshti, Mohammad Beheshti, is its producer. The scene was that of the uniting of Horr-e Riahi to the supporters of the third imam, blessings be upon him. An unknown group attacked the crew and actors and injured a number of them. They were chanting "God Is Great, Khomeyni Is the Leader" and "O Dear Khomeyni, Order It and I Will Spill Blood." However, a spokesman for the Expansion of Islamic Cinematography Organization said that the assailants were agents of international oppression and their aim was to harm true Islam!

During this year's Muharram, the government banned private mourning ceremonies but allowed a number of processions in the streets. Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the Islamic interior minister, in a strongly-worded speech in a Hoseyniyeh in West Tehran said: We stop such behavior and will not allow international oppression to misuse the mourning period. The threat by the ayatollah has become a prelude to banning any marches in Arba'in.

Afghan Mujahidin Operations in Panjsher Valley

GF251210 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] New Delhi (IRNA) — A high-ranking Soviet military officer who was commanding occupying Soviet forces in Panjsher valley, Afghanistan, was killed in a rocket attack by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

According to a report by IRNA from New Delhi, violent clashes occurred last week in the Panjsher region between the Afghan revolutionaries and the Soviet occupying force and Afghanistan Government forces. As a result of this clash, a major portion of the Soviet and government forces retreated from the Panjsher region. Quoting the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in New Delhi, this report added that a Soviet helicopter was shot down by the revolutidonaries in Salang region and the seven occupants of this helicopter were killed.

According to this report, despite strict security measures around Kabul City, bomb explosions continue to be heard in various sections of the city. Last week several bombs exploded in the Karteh Baryavan region in which the headquarters of the police and the Karmal regime party are located; no report of losses has yet been received. The same sources say that because of the critical condition in the country, four high-ranking Afghanistan Army officers have fled to Pakistan and have applied there for political asylum.

Similarly, a spokesman of the Afghanistan Jami'at-e Eslami, told AFP the day before yesterday, that the forces of the puppet regime of Afghanistan, during an attack on 16 September in the Herat region, located in the northwest of Afghanistan close to the Iranian border, beseiged Herat City to contain the Afghan revolutioanries. According to the AFP the spokesman said that about 500 tanks and armored vehicles, 20 helicopter gunships, and 12 fighter aircraft took part in this operation. This operation lasted about a fortnight and at least 400 of the invading forces were killed or wounded.

According to the same report, the battle extended to even inside the city of Herat. In this operation two tanks and some armored cars were also set on fire and destroyed.

The spokesman of the Jami'at-e Eslami added that about 100 civilians were killed in an air raid carried out on a village in the same area on 23 September.

It may be recalled that last May a joint force of Soviet and Afghanistan regime soldiers, numbering about 10,000 persons, carried out a similar operation in this province.